

REMARKS

The Amendments

Claims 1 and 16 have been amended. New claims 35-43 have been added. Claims 2, 4-12 and 22-29 have been previously cancelled. Accordingly, claims 1, 3, 13-15, 17-21, and 30-43 are now pending in this application. The claims are marked up relative the claim amendments submitted on August 28, 2007.

Claims 1 and 16 have been amended to correct a typographic error and remove certain redundancies in the claim language, respectively. These amendments do not affect the scope of the claims.

New claim 35 depends from claim 1, reciting the nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, further including “includes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 or more phosphorothioate internucleotide linkages” in one or both strands. New claim 35 finds support in the as-filed application at, for example, page 30, line 20 through page 31, line 20; and elsewhere. New claim 35 also finds support in priority applications such as U.S. Provisional Application 60/363,124, at, for example, page 9, lines 14-23, 28-30; page 11, lines 6-11; and elsewhere.

New claim 36 depends from claim 1, reciting the nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, further including “1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 or more 2'-O-methoxyethyl (MOE) nucleotides” in one or both strands. New claim 36 finds support in the as-filed application at, for example, page 44, line 7-16; and elsewhere.

New claim 37 depends from claim 1, reciting the nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, further including “1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 or more locked nucleic acid (LNA) nucleotides” in one or both strands. New claim 37 finds support in the as-filed application at, for example, page 103, lines 18-22, and elsewhere. New claim 37 also finds support in priority applications such as U.S. Provisional Application 60/363,124, at, for example, page 37, lines 28-31, and elsewhere.

New claim 38 finds support in the as-filed application at, for example, Support for the amendment can be found at, *inter alia*, page 8, line 3; page 9, lines 13-27; page 12, lines 21-30; page 13, lines 8-17; page 14, lines 11-16; page 17, lines 1-7; page 17, lines 21-27; page 23, lines 1-4; page 43, lines 2-5; page 31, lines 16-31; and Tables I and II, and elsewhere in the specification as filed. New claim 38 also finds support in priority applications such as U.S. Provisional Application 60/363,124, at, for example, page 3, lines 15-17; page 5, lines 14-17;

page 10, line 3, to page 11, line 25; page 12, lines 4-8; page 18, lines 1-5; page 19, lines 11-14; page 20, lines 13-24; page 21, lines 3-12; page 24, lines 15-22; page 25, lines 17-29; page 29, lines 24-28; page 35, lines 29-30; Tables I & III; page 310; and elsewhere.

New claim 39 finds support in the as-filed application at, for example, page 24, lines 30-31, and elsewhere. New claim 39 also finds support in priority applications such as U.S. Provisional Application 60/363,124, at, for example, page 45, line 32, to page 46, line 13, and elsewhere.

New claim 40 finds support in the as-filed application at, for example, page 8, line 3; page 9, lines 13-27; page 12, lines 21-30; page 13, lines 8-17; page 14, lines 11-16; page 17, lines 1-7; page 31, lines 16-31; and Tables I and II, and elsewhere in the specification as filed. New claim 40 also finds support in priority applications such as U.S. Provisional Application 60/363,124, at, for example, page 3, lines 15-17; page 5, lines 14-17; page 10, lines 3-11, 25; page 12, lines 4-8; page 18, lines 1-5; page 19, lines 11-14; page 20, lines 13-24; page 21, lines 3-12; page 24, lines 15-22; page 25, lines 17-29; page 29, lines 24-28; page 35, lines 29-30; page 42, lines 4-16; Tables I & III; page 310; and elsewhere.

New claim 41 finds support in the as-filed application at, for example, page 24, lines 30-31, and elsewhere. New claim 41 also finds support in priority applications such as U.S. Provisional Application 60/363,124, at, for example, page 45, line 32, to page 46, line 13, and elsewhere.

New claim 42 finds support in the as-filed application at, for example, page 49, lines 9-15, and elsewhere. New claim 42 also finds support in priority applications such as U.S. Provisional Application 60/363,124, at, for example, page 15, lines 10-26, and elsewhere.

New claim 43 finds support in the as-filed application at, for example, page 49, lines 9-15, and elsewhere. New claim 43 also finds support in priority applications such as U.S. Provisional Application 60/363,124, at, for example, page 15, lines 10-26, and elsewhere.

Amendments to the claims are made without prejudice or disclaimer, and do not constitute amendments to overcome any prior art or other statutory rejections. They are fully supported by the specification as filed, as explained above, and thus do not introduce new matter. Additionally, these amendments are not and should not be construed as admissions regarding the patentability of the claimed subject matter. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the subject

matter of previously presented claims in this or in any other appropriate patent application. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the entry of the amendments presented.

This paper is filed to supplement Applicant's August 28, 2007, response to the Final Office Action mailed on June 5, 2007. Applicant reiterates all arguments made in the August 28, 2007, response herein.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully requests early action on the merits. If the Examiner believes that a teleconference will expedite prosecution of this application, he is urged to telephone the undersigned at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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